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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

AN EFFICIENT WINTER BAIT FOR JACK RABBITS
(Washington District)

Under winter conditions, during periods of heavy snowfall and freezing temperature, jack rabbits will congregate around cultivated areas, doing considerable damage to haystacks and young orchards. At this time, poison baits are taken readily.

Prepare a thin, boiled, starch-paste solution in the proportion of 1 tablespoonful gloss starch to 1 1/2 quarts water. Stir into this solution, until well mixed, 1 ounce powdered strychnine alkaloid and 1 scant teaspoonful of saccharine. Sift out about 15 pounds alfalfa leaves, place on a canvas or clean floor, and pour over it the poisoned starch solution. Mix thoroughly until the leaves are evenly coated. The bait is then ready for distribution. In zero weather, dry the bait out in a warm temperature before distributing.

Fenced alfalfa stacks are excellent situations for baiting. Drop handfuls of the bait outside the inclosure in rabbit trails, several rods each way from the fence. The number of baits will depend on the number of rabbits observed feeding late in the evening. Repeat the baits each afternoon, where they have been cleaned up the previous night.

Alfalfa fields attract rabbits from a considerable distance. Baits dropped in trails will give good results. Poison corrals do not attract enough rabbits to pay for their construction. Efficient community campaigns will reduce the animals over large areas.

Good markets have recently been developed for wild rabbit skins. The pelts should be cased with the flesh side out, then stretched and thoroughly dried. Well-handled skins bring the best prices. For detailed instructions write for Farmers! Bulletin 1519-F, "Rabbit Skins for Fur."

C A U T I O N

Thoroughly clean and label containers used in preparing poison. Expose baits only in places where livestock are excluded.

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